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Achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, as well as implementing the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits: progress made, challenges and opportunities

Statement submitted by Mediterranean Council for Burns and Fire Disasters, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2005/100.

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From rhetoric to action: building early intervention

Implementing MDGs at the local level

For immigrant women, the complexity of gender-based violence is heightened by the inclusion of factors such as race, ethnicity, educational attainment, patterns of child-rearing, perceptions and attitudes towards the foreign born. With limited educational attainment, if not illiterate, unfamiliar with their rights and existing laws, immigrant women are most vulnerable to discrimination, exploitation and abuse. Their possible undocumented status leads to low-paying jobs, with no social benefits and lack of access to resources.

Under this circumstance, when abused, they fall deep into the manipulations of the abuser who often utilizes their immigration status as an instrument of intimidation, isolation and coercion, threatening to report them to authorities, or have them deported and separated from their children.

Our failure to acknowledge such a reality carries with it the potential of implementing policies and services that are unsuccessful in effectively assisting immigrant women in overcoming the cycle of personal abuse. Furthermore, it derides the advances gained for non-immigrant women.

Moving from rhetoric to action involves many issues, from continuous research and building stronger partnerships to instilling a sense of ownership and social responsibility in a greater number of individuals, in particular health professionals.

The world we envision as being free of violence for all women requires early interventions at all levels. At the initial stages of their education and training, health professionals, particularly physicians, must learn about gender perspectives and the implications of those perspectives in their future practices, and should be trained in the proper identification, assessment, treatment, evaluation and referral of abused women. The earlier medical students are immersed in the problem of the abuse of women, the better our chances of having socially aware and competent health-care providers working to eradicate gender-based violence.

In implementing the Millennium Development Goals, mainly #3 and #8, at the local level, we suggest:

- Providing medical schools with technical assistance to develop gender-oriented curricula and domestic violence differential diagnosis training.
- Working with Governments to establish a mechanism of training health-care providers who work in private practices or networks. This group probably carries a huge bulk of data not reported.
- Promoting partnerships between health professionals and communities through forums and conferences.
- Fostering implementation of mandatory reporting of intimate partner abuse. In the United States of America only six states carry specific laws on reporting suspected cases of domestic violence: California, Colorado, Kentucky, New Hampshire, New Mexico and Rhode Island.

- Allocating funding and technical support to research and programmes that focus on immigrant populations and gender-based violence.

- Establishing surveillance systems as measurable indicators for performance.

Migration can give a woman the opportunity for empowerment, growth, the enjoyment of peace, security and full exercise of her human rights and freedoms. Migration can also constitute the beginning of a cycle of discrimination, exploitation and violence. Governments and civil society have to choose.

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Achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, as well as implementing the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits: progress made, challenges and opportunities

Statement submitted by Droit à l'énergie SOS futur, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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Statement

Our organization acts everywhere in the world where, due to underdevelopment and non-existent infrastructure, there is no access to electricity. It also acts in developed countries, in Europe, in France, where precariousness deprives men and women of this essential good. In this framework, it has formulated a number of proposals:

1) Institution of a global electrification agency:

In the area of access to energy and in particular to electricity we propose the institution of a single world agency designed to play a threefold role:

- *Political:* Under the aegis of the United Nations, this body should assess projects defined on the basis of the local context where the needs are recorded. Its mission should be to define priorities in terms of overall objectives previously discussed with the local and regional actors and all concerned parties.

- *Financial:* This body is to be commissioned to negotiate and raise the necessary funds among the relevant international agencies (IMF, World Bank, Regional Development Banks, etc.). It is to be responsible for setting up the most appropriate financial arrangements in terms of the existing needs and situations and for soliciting the involvement of public and private operators. It is to offer a guarantee on the investments made by operators, on certain conditions: manpower is to be trained and the operation and management of the facilities are to be transferred to the local actors according to a programmed schedule.

- *Technological:* This body could rely on technological expertise for advice or validation of the decided projects.

2) Institution of an observatory of fossil resources, considered as part of the World Heritage of Humankind:

The announced rarefaction of fossil resources should lead to drawing up an assessment of fossil resources. Knowledge of the reserves is a decisive factor in guiding energy choices on the global scale. It will constitute valuable aid for decision-making and forecasting.

3) Institution of new criteria for the evaluation of companies:

Our NGO proposes the institution of new criteria for the evaluation of companies, along the model of the Human Development Index set up by UNDP, which are to include the environmental dimension. This latter, added to the usual economic and social evaluations, could determine the rates for financial loans.

4) Public-Private Partnership:

For a number of developing countries, the means needed to access investments in the infrastructure and for energy production and distribution are much greater than their financing capacity. Contribution from companies in the energy sector is indispensable.

In this framework, it is important that the policies defined by governments and/or regions should be clear and feature specific rules, defined in particular with regard to their public service and/or general interest missions: unitary tariff, fixing of the kW rate, etc.

On the other hand, it is necessary to be able to provide a number of guarantees to industrial partners investing in these countries. These guarantees should cover the financial risk as well as the risks related to political instability.

We recommend multilateral partnerships:

- At the national level, with the governments, which define the country's energy policy and fix the regulatory framework for operations. The partnership can be set up, for instance, with the ministry in charge of the country's energy policy.

- At the local level, with the key stakeholders, which are in the best position to identify precisely the specific needs and priorities in the area of access to energy, in particular in the rural world.

- Local organizations: NGOs, a necessary link with the social fabric and allowing the population to be part of the choices and decisions made in energy policy matters.

- Operators of the sector, which can provide their technical know-how as well as part of the necessary financing capacities.

- Droit à l'énergie SOS futur, whose role will be to validate and label these projects.

The sum of guarantees as well as the multi-partnership nature of the projects will generate the climate of trust that is indispensable to draw the necessary financing.